

# Soldier's packing list relooked

By Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke  
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**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD**, Afghanistan—The modern U.S. soldier has the ability to adapt to any terrain, accurately take the life of any enemy and return home with honor.

Anything he needs to perform his mission is readily accessible on his back. He carries everything from the food he eats to the ammunition he fires, causing him added stress.

“Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki understands this. Shinseki has tasked the Army to reduce a soldier's carrying load to no more than 45 pounds before the Army introduces the objective force in 2008,” said Lt. Col. Charles E. Dean, team leader of the Devil Combat Arms Assessment Team here.

Two members of the Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, a soldier from the Program Executive Office, three members of the Ranger Training Brigade from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and a soldier of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion, Infantry Training Regiment, Fort Benning, Ga., were tasked to Afghanistan. The Soldier and Biological Chemi-



Photo courtesy of the Devil Combat Arms Assessment Team

*“During Operation Resolute Strike, soldiers crossed four rivers to get to the objective,” said Frederick J. DuPont, liaison to the Dismounted Battlespace Battle Lab, U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.*

cal Command, which is in charge of everything the Army soldier carries, wears and consumes, is conducting the study on exactly what dismounted soldiers are toting around while they are carrying out missions.

The entire Devil Combat Arms Assessment Team conducting the study is, or at least has been, Infantrymen and all are Airborne

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# U.S. assists Afghan women's hospital open

Story and photos by  
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**RABIA BALKHI**, Afghanistan — The Rabia Balkhi Women's Hospital in Kabul officially opened for business April 21 when U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thomson cut the ribbon at Monday's opening ceremony.

The largest women's hospital in Afghanistan, Rabia Balkhi can house up to 300 patients, and, on an average week, can conduct 12 general surgeries, 15 gynecological surgeries, 10 ear, nose and throat infections and 210 deliveries.

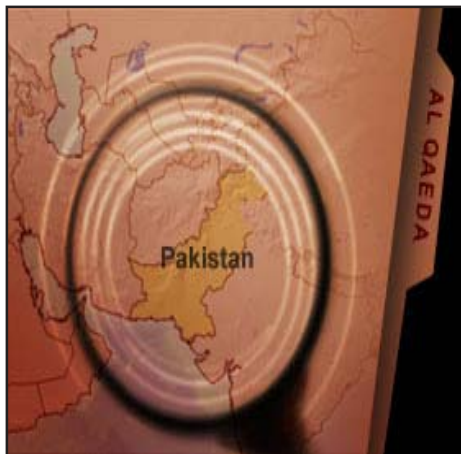
During his speech, Thomson cited a maternal mortality study con-



*Several children attend the Rabia Balkhi Women's Hospital's grand opening April 21.*

————— See **HOSPITAL**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



## Bush hails capture of top al Qaeda operative

**WASHINGTON** — President Bush Wednesday hailed what he called a “major, significant find” in the war against terrorism — the arrest in Pakistan of a top al Qaeda operative believed to have played roles in the September 11, 2001, attacks and the bombing of the USS Cole.

Wahid bin Attash, also known as Tawfiq bin Attash or Khallad, was arrested Tuesday along with five other suspected al Qaeda members in a police raid in the port city of Karachi, Pakistan’s Information Ministry said.

“He’s a killer. He was one of the top al Qaeda operatives,” Bush said at the White House. “He was right below Khalid Shaikh Mohammed on the organizational chart of al Qaeda. He is one less person that people who love freedom have to worry about.”

A senior Pakistani officer, who did not want to be named, said that when authorities arrested the six men, they were planning to attack the U.S. consulate and other government installations in Karachi.

Pakistani authorities identified Attash as a Yemeni national and said his arrest averted a “major terrorist attack.”

Police found 150 kilograms (330 pounds) of high explosives and a large quantity of guns and ammunition when he was arrested, the Information Ministry said.

Bush praised Pakistan for its role in apprehending Attash and said the coalition is winning the war on terror.

“When al Qaeda came and killed Americans, there was only one way to deal with them: That was to hunt them down, find them and bring them to justice,” Bush said. “The war goes on.”

U.S. officials also believe Attash was the mastermind of the Cole bombing, which killed 17 U.S. sailors October 12, 2000.

One U.S. official said Attash — once a bodyguard to al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden — “will know about future al Qaeda plans.”

Attash is believed to be “very close” to bin Laden and served as an intermediary between Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the September 11 plot’s mastermind, and some of the hijackers.

The September 11 attacks on New York and Washington and Pennsylvania killed more than 3,000 people and triggered the U.S. war to oust al Qaeda from Afghanistan, where Attash is believed to have lost a leg in combat.

No U.S. officials were present at the time of his capture, though officials in Washington said U.S. intelligence provided “information that may have been helpful” in the operation.



## Searchers find live worms in shuttle wreckage

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** — Hundreds of worms from a science experiment aboard the space shuttle Columbia have been found alive in the wreckage, NASA said Wednesday.

The worms, known as *C. elegans*, were found in debris in Texas several weeks ago. Technicians sorting through the debris at Kennedy Space Center in Florida didn’t open the containers of worms and dead moss cells

until this week.

All seven astronauts were killed when the shuttle disintegrated over Texas on February 1. Columbia contained almost 60 scientific investigations.

“To my knowledge, these are the only live experiments that have been located and identified,” said Bruce Buckingham, a NASA spokesman at the Kennedy Space Center.

The worms and moss were in the same nine-pound locker located in the mid-deck of the space shuttle. The worms were placed in six canisters, each holding eight petri dishes.

The worms, which are about the size of the tip of a pencil, were part of an experiment testing a new synthetic nutrient solution. The worms, which have a life cycle of between seven and 10 days, were four or five generations removed from the original worms placed on Columbia in January.

## Earthquake shakes southeastern Turkey

**ISTANBUL, Turkey** — An earthquake shook southeastern Turkey early Thursday, bringing down four buildings and killing at least 5 people, according to Turkish authorities.

The quake’s epicenter was the city of Bingol and measured a magnitude of 6.4, according to the Kandilli Observatory.

It happened at 3:27 a.m. (8:27 p.m. Wednesday ET) and was felt in Bingol and surrounding cities.

Huseyin Cos, Bingol’s governor said the quake cut power to the city. Bingol is a small and underdeveloped city with few high-rises and not much heavy industry. Nevertheless, officials warned residents to stay away from their homes for fear of collapse.

Magnitude 6.4 earthquakes are classified as “strong” quakes, capable of causing considerable damage, especially in areas of poor construction.

In 1999, a 7.4 earthquake struck northwestern Turkey, near the Sea of Marmara, killing more than 18,000 people.



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and Ranger qualified.

"Afghanistan offers terrain, environmental, load and operational challenges, all the varieties of dismounted challenges at extreme stress, (both) desert and urban," said Frederick J. DuPont, liaison to the Dismounted Battlespace Battle Lab, U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning.

The team arrived here April 2 for a two-month assessment. Their goal: to actively observe what 700 infantry soldiers carried during approximately 11 outside-the-wire missions conducted here, Dean said.

"I'm not aware of any study of this type done during a combat operation," said Dean.

The Army Field Manual 21-18, Foot Marches, specifies limits on what soldiers should carry. The theory and reality of what soldiers carry is compared using this doctrinal standard.

"What we are discovering is, that it is impossible to meet the standards of 21-18," said Dean.

According to the Army's standard, soldiers aren't authorized to carry any more than 30 percent of their body weight. The reality is soldiers are carrying more than 30 percent, according to DuPont. Everything a soldier carries is for necessity.

"As the loads increase, so do the capabilities," said Dean.

Today's soldier carries accurate weapons with add-on features, wears a helmet, uniform, body armor, an assault pack, a Modular Lightweight Load Carrying Equipment ruck sack and additional items that are job-related. This equipment is defined as the emergency approach march load.

Sometimes soldiers with the same job description carry different amounts of weight, said DuPont. One may be carrying 50 pounds of mortar rounds, when it can be divided among all the mortar men.

The team ensured they weren't treated any different than the "White Devils."

"There was no special treatment. We carried the same packing list...Everything they did, we did. We weren't flies on the wall. We used active observation," said Dean.

All the collected baseline data will be shared with Army research and development centers. Their combined efforts will reduce the bulk.

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Bend It Like Beckham." The daughter of orthodox Sikh rebels against her parents' traditionalism by running off to Germany with a soccer team.

Tomorrow's movie was unavailable at press time.



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	Thunderstorms H: 77F L: 51F	Scattered t-storms H: 72F L: 46F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 95F L: 58F	Dusty H: 81F L: 50F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 72F L: 48F	Scattered t-storms H: 68F L: 45F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Mostly cloudy H: 52F L: 42F	Partly cloudy H: 58F L: 41F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# SMA visits Uzbek NCO academy

Story and photo by  
Spc. Travis Edwards  
1<sup>st</sup> COSCOM PAO

**CAMP STRONGHOLD FREEDOM,** Uzbekistan — Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley visited the regional Uzbek Non-commissioned Officer Academy April 25 during a visit to Camp Stronghold Freedom, Uzbekistan.

Tilley and Mirakov discussed several issues concerning Army life. Military pay, medical benefits, conscription, and retirement issues were several of the topics discussed.

The academy is located several miles outside of Camp Stronghold Freedom, Uzbekistan, in the city of Karshi-Khanabad.

Tilley was greeted by the academy commandant, Lt. Col. Ilhomjon Mirakov. Greetings were exchanged and communication was provided through an American linguist.

Tilley was then taken on a brief tour of the facility and its grounds.

Mirakov explained the how both officers and noncommissioned officers train cadets at the academy.

“In our academy soldiers are trained in their trades by officers and at times by senior noncommissioned officers. They are all on my staff here at the academy,” said Mirakov.

In Uzbekistan 25 years is the maximum



*Uzbek Lt. Col Ilhomjon Mirakov, commandant of the regional Noncommissioned Officer Academy, explains to Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley how the academy works Friday in Karshi-Khanabad, Uzbekistan.*

allowed time in service before retirement is mandatory. Soldiers can retire at 20 years and receive pension funds.

The two laughed together about retirement requirements, pointing out that Tilley has been in the service for 34 years and Mirakov has been for have of that.

On a more serious note the two discussed women in the military and male conscripts.

Women in the Uzbek military begin their careers as noncommissioned officers. They are all volunteers, said Mirakov.

“Privates,” he said, “are male conscripts who join the Army to fulfill the constitutional requirement imposed on them.”

The requirement was recently lowered to a mandatory 12 months of military service from 18 months.

During the tour, Tilley visited classrooms where cadets receive instructions on a wide variety of military branches ranging from transportation and ordnance, medical to signal, to air defense and armor.

Tilley, whose military occupational specialty is armor, was given an opportunity to get into the drivers seat of a Russian-built T-62 armored tank. The tank serves as a training aide at the academy.

When asked about the U.S. Army’s main battle tank, the M-1A1, Tilley replied, “We can fire at a range of targets while moving at a top speed using an automatic loader.”

Mirakov replied in kind with specifications of his main battle tank. They both laughed aloud realizing how proud each is of his own equipment.

After the tour, Tilley gave Mirakov several small gifts and a SMA coin to thank him for the tour.

When Mirakov asked Tilley if he would return, Tilley replied, “It would be an honor to come back to see you and the progress of your school. You have a fine academy.”

*(Editor’s note: Spc. Travis Edwards is the public affairs NCOIC of the Joint Logistics Command.)*

## HOSPITAL, from Page 1

ducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United Nations Children’s Fund.

“That study made clear something I saw firsthand here in Kabul — the need to rebuild the public health infrastructure, especially to provide care for women and children.”

Engineers of the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force took on the \$300,000 national impact project in November. Spearheaded by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Tim Horn, Capt. Josh Thibealt, and Lt. Col. Christopher Carney, engineer teams made periodic ventures to check up on the progress of the five-month endeavor. U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld specifically pointed out this hospital as a must-do project several months ago.

“It’s a National Impact Project since it is an effort to increase the

hospital’s services and care and decrease the infant mortality rate in Afghanistan,” said Maj. Thomas Schmitz.

“This is the one place we can do the most good for the women of Afghanistan,” Horn added. “It’s one place where we can make the biggest difference.”

From the engineering perspective, Horn said he enjoyed watching the hospital’s fruition from the project’s approval to the opening ceremony.

Contractors totally cleaned out and renovated the dilapidated building, fixed the dining area and patient ward and installed a new 500 KV generator.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Finn also spoke at the ceremony, along with hospital director Nasrin Oryakhil, Minister of Public Health Suhaila Sediq and Safia Sofia of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs.



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

## Vancouver scores three power-play goals in win

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** — The referees kept a tighter lid on the boiling rivalry between Vancouver and Minnesota, and the Canucks took full advantage.

Vancouver scored three power-play goals, and Dan Cloutier made 16 saves with a little help from the posts as the Canucks beat the Wild 3-2 on Tuesday night to take a 2-1 lead in their Western Conference playoff series.

Game 4 is Friday in St. Paul.

It took only seven seconds for the bad blood from Game 2's postgame scuffle to surface when Brad May and Matt Johnson dropped their gloves.

"The fight really got the guys going," Canucks forward Brendan Morrison said.

The Canucks got goals from Morrison, Ed Jovanovski and Daniel Sedin as the Wild allowed three power-play goals for only the second time this season. The Canucks, whose power play was ranked third in the NHL this year, went 3-for-6 with the man advantage in a game that saw 40 penalty minutes assessed.

"That's how the game was called and as a penalty-killing unit, we should have been a lot more solid," Wild defenseman Willie Mitchell said.

"That's probably the tightest game we've seen called in the postseason."

After combining for 16 penalty minutes in Game 1, the teams earned 74 in Game 2, the majority coming after the game when five misconducts were issued.

The NHL fined the Wild \$25,000 on Tuesday for their part in the brawl.

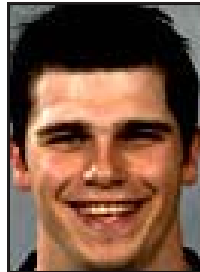
The Wild had power-play goals by Filip Kuba and Marian Gaborik, but fell behind on Sedin's second-period score.

Sedin took a pass from twin brother Henrik and tipped the puck from the slot past Dwayne Roloson's glove side to make it 3-2.

The Wild tried to rally in the final minutes, but bogged down in the face of Vancouver's bigger, stronger defenders. Wild coach Jacques Lemaire said his players might have exerted too much energy early and wore down late.

"It's disappointing," Lemaire said. "We felt we played very well. We felt we could've won."

Pascal Dupuis nearly tied it for the Wild late in the second, but his slap shot from the right circle hit the post,



*Dan Cloutier*

drawing a loud groan from the sellout crowd of 19,354, the largest to watch a hockey game in Minnesota.

Dupuis had another chance midway through the third on a breakaway with Vancouver on its sixth power play, but Cloutier made the stop with his glove.

Roloson was pulled with about 25 seconds to play, but the Wild couldn't get off a clean shot.

"I thought we got the big kills at the end and that was the difference," Canucks coach Marc Crawford said. "When you get them, it just builds your confidence."

Said Cloutier: "They didn't have anything in the last five minutes, so that's a good sign for our team and something to build on."

Vancouver improved to 5-0 this postseason when leading after two periods.

Minnesota outshot Vancouver 18-13 — but the slower pace favored the Canucks' bigger lineup. The Canucks took a page from Minnesota's playbook, using stingy defense in the neutral zone to frustrate the Wild and create turnovers.

As a result, Minnesota's speedsters didn't have as much room to make runs at the net.

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## 2002 National Hockey League standings

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic

(2) New Jersey	108 pts
(4) Philadelphia	107 pts
Pittsburgh	65 pts
N.Y. Rangers	78 pts
(8) N.Y. Islanders	83 pts

#### Northeast

(1) Ottawa	113 pts
(7) Boston	87 pts
(5) Toronto	98 pts
Montreal	77 pts
Buffalo	72 pts

#### Southeast

(3) Tampa Bay	93 pts
Carolina	61 pts
(6) Washington	92 pts
Florida	70 pts
Atlanta	74 pts

### Western Conference

#### Central

(2) Detroit	110 pts
(5) St. Louis	99 pts
Chicago	79 pts
Columbus	69 pts
Nashville	74 pts

#### Northwest

(4) Vancouver	104 pts
(6) Minnesota	95 pts
(8) Edmonton	92 pts
(3) Colorado	105 pts
Calgary	75 pts

#### Pacific

(1) Dallas	111 pts
(7) Anaheim	95 pts
Los Angeles	78 pts
San Jose	73 pts
Phoenix	78 pts



## SPORTS, from Page 5

"You can't open it up against these guys. They're such a good team at counterattacking that you have to play it simple," Morrison said.

"Our defense really picked it up, Crawford said. "It was a tight-checking affair and there weren't a lot of shots on either side of the ice."

Vancouver grabbed the lead 6:25 in on Morrison's goal. He picked up a rebound to the right of the net and slipped his shot underneath Roloson's pads.

Kuba tied it at 11:47.

Jovanovski, standing to the left of the net, made it 2-1 after

tapping a nice pass from Morrison past Roloson's stick at 4:24 of the second. But the Wild answered again when Gaborik, who had just come onto the ice, took a drop pass from Sergei Zholtok and wristed the puck past Cloutier.

Minnesota had two chances to tie in the third.

Cloutier drew a delay of game penalty, and Todd Bertuzzi was whistled after catching Darby Hendrickson in the face with his stick. But Vancouver killed both penalties.

The Wild, whose power play finished 23<sup>rd</sup> in the NHL, went 2-for-7.

## Hart finalists announced

**NEW YORK** — Avalanche forward Peter Forsberg, Canucks forward Markus Naslund and Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur were selected as finalists Wednesday for the Hart Trophy, given to the NHL's most valuable player.

Forsberg had 106 points and Naslund had 104 this season to top the league in scoring. Brodeur led the NHL with 41 victories and posted a 2.02 goals-against average.

All are MVP finalists for the first time.

Brodeur also is a finalist for the Vezina Trophy as top goaltender, along with Marty Turco of the Stars and Ed Belfour of the Maple Leafs. Turco had the lowest GAA in the modern era at 1.72, while Belfour set a franchise record for wins with 37 and became the seventh goaltender in NHL history to reach 400 victories.

Four Dallas Stars are finalists, most from any one team.

Derian Hatcher is a finalist for the Norris Trophy as best defenseman, along with Nicklas Lidstrom of the Red Wings and Al MacInnis of the Blues. Lidstrom has won the award the last two years while MacInnis took the Norris in 1999.

Right wing Jere Lehtinen is up for the Selke Trophy as top defensive forward along with John Madden of the Devils and Wes Walz of the Wild. Center Mike Modano is a finalist for the Lady Byng Trophy for sportsmanship, along with Lidstrom and Alexander Mogilny of the Maple Leafs.

Brodeur and Lidstrom are the only players nominated for multiple awards.

Barret Jackman of the Blues, Rick Nash of the Blue Jackets and Henrik Zetterberg of the Red Wings are finalists for the Calder Trophy as top rookie.

The winners will be announced June 12.

## Stevens returns, scores on power play in third

**TAMPA, Fla.** — A good night's rest is all Scott Stevens needed to get back in a playoff mode.

Returning to New Jersey's lineup two nights after being hit in the left ear with a puck, Stevens scored a goal and anchored another strong defensive performance as the Devils beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 3-1 Wednesday night.

New Jersey moved within one victory of the Eastern Conference finals.

**"I'm going in for the kill."**



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

*Laugh Support*



## 2002/2003 NBA standings

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic

(2x)New Jersey	49-33
(4x)Philadelphia	48-34
(6x)Boston	44-38
(8x)Orlando	42-20
Washington	37-45

#### Central

(1z)Detroit	50-32
(3x)Indiana	48-34
(5x)New Orleans	47-35
(7x)Milwaukee	42-40
Atlanta	35-47

### Western Conference

#### Midwest

(1z)San Antonio	60-22
(3x)Dallas	60-22
(4x)Minnesota	51-31
(7x)Utah	47-35
Houston	43-39

#### Pacific

(2y)Sacramento	59-23
(5x)LA Lakers	50-32
(6x)Portland	50-32
(8x)Phoenix	44-38
Seattle	40-42

x - Clinched playoff birth.  
y - Clinched division title.  
z - Clinched conference title.